

Community Services and Parks Standing Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Time: 9:00 o'clock a.m.

Members Present:

Councillors

Ward 3 - Councillor Bortolin

Ward 5 - Councillor Sleiman (Chairperson)

Ward 6 - Councillor Gignac

Ward 9 - Councillor McKenzie

Councillor Regrets

Ward 10 - Councillor Morrison

Clerk's Note: Members participated via video conference, in accordance with Procedure By-law 98-2011 as amended, which allows for electronic participation during a declared emergency.

Also present are the following from administration:

Jason Reynar, Chief Administrative Officer

Jelena Payne, Community Development and Health Commissioner / Corporate Leader, Social Development & Health

Ray Mensour, Acting Parks, Recreation, Culture & Corporate Facilities Commissioner

Debbie Cercone, Executive Director of Housing & Children's Services

Andrew Daher, Executive Director of Employment & Social Services

Alina Sirbu, Executive Director of Long Term Care / Administrator

James Chacko, Senior Manager of Parks

Tom Graziano, Senior Manager of Facilities

Tanya Antoniw, Manager of Policy & Staff Development

Mary Ellen Bernard, Manager of Social Policy & Planning

Stephen Lynn, Manager of Social Policy & Planning

Kelly Goz, Manager of Homelessness & Housing Support

Jennifer Tanner, Manager of Homelessness & Housing Support

Winnie Lee, Manager of Customer Service

Gayle Jones, Diversity / Accessibility Officer

Sandra Bradt, Executive Initiatives Coordinator

Sonia Bajaj, Coordinator of Housing Administration & Development

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Tina Moore, Coordinator of Housing Administration & Development
Jolayne Susko, Coordinator of Housing Administration & Policy
Diane Wilson, Coordinator of Housing Administration & Development
Mike Deimling, Social Housing Analyst
Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant
Anna Ciacelli, Supervisor of Council Service

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair calls the meeting of the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee to order at 9:01 o'clock a.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None disclosed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

3.1. Adoption of the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee minutes of its meeting held December 2, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Gignac
Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

THAT the minutes of the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee meeting held December 2, 2020 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

Report Number: SCM 364/2020
Clerk's File: MB2021

4. REQUEST FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS

None requested.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None presented.

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6. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

6.1. Family Fuse - Parenting, Education, Purpose

Christie Nelson, Program Coordinator, Family Fuse

Christie Nelson, Program Coordinator, Family Fuse, appears before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee Meeting via video conference to make a presentation entitled "Family Fuse - Parenting, Education, Purpose" and provides information related to the program as follows:

- Family Fuse is a local not-for-profit grassroots organization consisting of three core members who are passionate about supporting Black Canadian parents, guardians, and caregivers in Windsor-Essex County
- They work with parents to raise equity and to provide insight into how school age children can be encouraged by parent involvement
- They build partnerships with agencies to improve overall quality of life for parents, guardians, caregivers, and their families
- Some partners include Windsor Police Services, the Greater Essex County School Board, the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board, the University of Windsor Human Kinetics Department, and the Women's Care Shelter
- They offer workshops and free counselling for those interested in the following:
 - Strengthening the bond between parents and children
 - Helping the children through racism and harassment
 - Increasing knowledge and tools to provide better support for children
 - Reducing stress
- Coaching is available as needed by parents to address individual needs
- Some families experience exclusion and face conflicts and challenges including racism, poverty, trauma, and these barriers make it difficult to navigate the systems and access support.

Councillor McKenzie inquires about how many families are being supported. Ms. Nelson indicates that one hundred and five individuals have signed up for workshops and individualized coaching.

Councillor McKenzie inquires as to what a partnership would look like with their organization and the City of Windsor. Ms. Nelson indicates that a partnership would include sharing space on their website, and their organization would act as a referral agency. She adds that this would help the City of Windsor gain insight into the needs of the Black Community and the efforts put forth by Family Fuse to support them. Councillor McKenzie suggests providing their presentation to the Diversity Committee.

Councillor Gignac inquires about the partnership with the School Boards. Ms. Nelson indicates that the school boards are sharing their promotional material with the teachers, parents, and students. Ms. Nelson adds that a series of meetings have begun with the School Boards with Black community-led organizations along with the Superintendents of the School Board. Ms. Nelson adds

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that it is about looking at hiring practices – to move forward to ensure the destreaming program is effective and that our Black youth are supported.

Councillor Gignac inquires whether they have reached out to the Multicultural Council. Ms. Nelson indicates that they look forward to communicating with the Multicultural Council in the near future.

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 145**

THAT the presentation by Christie Nelson, Program Coordinator, Family Fuse entitled "Family Fuse – Parenting, Education, Purpose" **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,

THAT the presentation **BE REFERRED** to the Diversity Committee for review and consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 51/2021
Clerk's File: SR2021

6.2. Implementation Update on the Windsor Essex 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Master Plan - City Wide

Kelly Goz, Manager of Homelessness & Housing Support, and Diane Wilson, Coordinator of Housing Administration & Development

Kelly Goz, Manager of Homelessness & Housing Support, and Diane Wilson, Coordinator of Housing Administration & Development, appear before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee Meeting via video conference regarding the administrative report entitled "Implementation Update on the Windsor Essex 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Master Plan - City Wide" and provide information as follows:

- Forty-two of the fifty strategies outlined in the Master Plan are currently in progress.
- In terms of COVID-19, funding was provided to twenty-two Housing with Supports and three Emergency Shelters.
- Creation of Isolation and Recovery Centres, which were established to provide a safe place for people experiencing homelessness while they waited for their COVID-19 test results or recovered from the virus.
- The Housing & Homelessness Help Hub (H4) was created at Water World, which represented 9,882 visits to this space.
- Goal 1 of the Master Plan – To sustain and expand social/affordable housing
 - Includes collaboration across the city departments to reduce barriers and the development of social housing
 - Council approved Habitat for Humanity inclusion in the waiver of fees
 - Changes from Second Units to additional dwelling units bylaw

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- Thirty-two households received the Windsor Essex Housing Benefit as of February 2021.
- Two hundred and fourteen households received the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit as of January 2021.
- Repair and Renew capital project will assist the Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation in addressing the unfunded liability for capital repairs and maintenance.
- Goal 3 of the Master Plan – Ending homelessness
 - Four hundred and eleven unique households experiencing homelessness as of December 2020
 - Four hundred and eighteen households housed throughout 2020
- Goal 7 of the Master Plan - Monitor and report and evaluate
 - Implemented the Homes and Individual Families Information Services
 - Conducted the third Point in Time Count – March 2021
 - Integration Housing System to be rolled out in late 2021

Councillor Bortolin requests that Administration provide a breakdown of the \$61M that the department receives outlining the amount provided by each level of government. Administration will report back with this information.

Councillor Bortolin inquires whether increases in the use of the system can be tracked versus referrals to permanent housing and referrals to housing with supports. Councillor Bortolin notes that the H4 Centre at Water World has been seen as an asset and questions if there are statistics on the success rate. Ms. Goz indicates that when the program at the H4 switched over from being run by the City to reassign staff to Housing Information Services in late 2020, there was a renewed focus on housing outcomes and that statistically has been tracked since that time. Ms. Goz adds that they are starting to see an increase in referrals for folks attending the H4 to the prioritized By-names list.

Councillor Bortolin inquires about the status of Water World going forward. Ms. Goz responds that data is being tracked through the By-names prioritized list. Debbie Cercone, Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services, appears before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee Meeting via video conference regarding the administrative report entitled "Implementation Update on the Windsor Essex 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Master Plan - City Wide" and indicates that they have sufficient funding to continue to operate the H4 until the end of June 2021 and they are looking for federal and provincial dollars to extend it beyond that timeframe.

Councillor Bortolin inquires as to what Administration would see as major gaps that COVID-19 has exposed in the system and potential outcomes that they have learned and benefitted from. Ms. Cercone responds that in order to resolve homelessness, you need a home. Ms. Cercone adds that there is a great need for mental health and addiction supports which have become elevated. Ms. Cercone indicates that their partners in the mental health sector have supported them, especially with the Isolation and Recovery site. Ms. Cercone states that the other gap identified is supportive housing and the fact that some individuals are unable to live independently without support. Ms. Cercone adds that the Downtown Mission is starting a homeless individuals and families information system which will provide an understanding of the needs of individuals who are

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utilizing the support services at this facility. Jennifer Tanner, Manager of Homelessness and Housing Support, appears before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee Meeting via video conference regarding the administrative report entitled "Implementation Update on the Windsor Essex 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Master Plan - City Wide" and adds that one of the other gaps that the pandemic has exposed is the risk of congregate living and how do they protect those who live in these settings who share sleeping areas and shared washrooms. Ms. Tanner indicates that they are doing what they can to increase space and focus on housing placement.

Councillor Gignac asks, in terms of the data gathering, when Administration expects the internal/external reporting to be available. Ms. Goz responds the reporting tools are currently in development and they are hoping to release these within the next few weeks.

Councillor Gignac inquires as to an update relating to the city's Real Estate division and city-owned properties. Ms. Cercone indicates that they receive regular reports from this division on the availability of properties for potential development for affordable housing.

Councillor McKenzie inquires as to which strategies are the highest priority. Ms. Cercone indicates that often times priorities are proceeded by policies and direction from upper levels of government. Ms. Cercone adds that there is a need for additional support for congregate care, which causes us to focus on enhanced supports that are required within a congregate setting.

Councillor McKenzie inquires about the number of individuals on the Affordable Housing Waiting List. Ms. Cercone responds there are 800 households on the waiting list.

Councillor McKenzie inquires as to what Housing Services' role in the Meadowbrook development was as it relates to the inception of the project and where they are now. Ms. Cercone responds that the role of Housing Services has been to promote and support the project at its inception. Ms. Cercone adds that it started with the divesting of land that Council had made available to the Housing Corporation for future development and on an ongoing basis, they would be working with the Housing Corporation on the delivery of that affordable housing program and supporting the need through the appropriate recording to the Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation.

Moved by: Councillor Gignac

Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 144**

THAT the report from the Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services providing updates regarding the implementation of Home Together: Windsor Essex Housing and Homelessness Master Plan **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried.

Report Number: S 14/2021

Clerk's File: GH/11710

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7. COMMITTEE MATTERS

7.1. Minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held November 24, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Gignac
Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 134**

THAT the minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held November 24, 2020 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 377/2020

Clerk's File: MB2020

7.2. Minutes of the Diversity Committee of its meeting held December 15, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Gignac
Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 135**

THAT the minutes of the Diversity Committee of its meeting held December 15, 2020 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 22/2021

Clerk's File: MB2020

7.3. Report No. 8 of the Diversity Committee - Community Consultation collaboration with the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 136**

THAT Report No. 8 of the Diversity Committee of its meeting held December 15, 2020 indicating:

That a collaboration of the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership (WELIP) and the Diversity Committee **BE APPROVED** to undertake a community consultation in conjunction with the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative to address racism in the community.

BE APPROVED.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 23/2021

Clerk's File: MB2020

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7.4. Report No. 11 of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee - Debenture Model for Affordable Housing

Councillor Gignac states that in developing debentures, the County would be a partner in this initiative. She asks how this would be shared out with the County and would pro-rated models be considered, or would the City of Windsor carry the full amount. Administration indicates it would be a partnership approach.

Councillor Bortolin requests that Administration ensure that the report to Council outlines a regional perspective and includes those implications.

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 137**

THAT Report No. 11 of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee of its meeting held November 25, 2020 indicating:

- i) That the City of Windsor BE REQUESTED to develop debenture models including but not limited to loans and bond issuances for Council to consider adopting in order to raise revenues required to achieve the affordable housing stock targets articulated in the unanimously adopted Housing and Homelessness Master Plan.
- ii) That funds raised through such models COULD BE DEPLOYED in collaboration with community partners and/or senior levels of government.
- iii) That the City of Windsor Real Estate Services Department BE DIRECTED to review the City of Windsor's existing real estate portfolio to identify opportunities to develop land to increase the supply of affordable housing in the community.

BE APPROVED.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 49/2021
Clerk's File: MB2020

7.5. Minutes of the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee of its meeting held November 25, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Gignac
Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 138**

THAT the minutes of the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee of its meeting held November 25, 2020 **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 50/2021
Clerk's File: MB2020

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7.6. Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 139**

THAT the 2020 Annual Report of the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee **BE APPROVED.**

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 59/2021
Clerk's File: MB2020

7.7. Minutes of the Committee of Management for Huron Lodge of its meeting held December 11, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Gignac
Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 140**

THAT the minutes of the Committee of Management for Huron Lodge of its meeting held December 11, 2020 **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 35/2021
Clerk's File: MB2020

7.8. Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors, Willistead Manor Inc., held February 11, 2021

Moved by: Councillor Gignac
Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 141**

THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors, Willistead Manor Inc., of its meeting held February 11, 2021 **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 66/2021
Clerk's File: MB2021

7.9. Diversity Committee 2020 Annual Report

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

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Decision Number: **CSPS 142**

THAT the 2020 Annual Report of the Diversity Committee **BE APPROVED.**

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 75/2021

Clerk's File: MB2020

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

8.1. A New Provincial-Municipal Vision for Social Assistance Transformation - City Wide

Councillor Bortolin refers to the Appendix in the report that speaks to basic needs, housing, crisis resolution, health, primary care, mental health and addictions and community supports; and how all of those things now become in some form our role as a municipality; and requests that Administration expand on the efforts underway and asks what this will look like. Jelena Payne, Community Development and Health Commissioner, appears before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee via video conference regarding the administrative report "A New Provincial-Municipal Vision for Social Assistance Transformation – City Wide" and indicates that at a provincial level, when it comes to the new vision for social assistance transformation delivery, much of this is cross ministerial work that is evolving from provincial tables. Ms. Payne adds that many of these changes start at a provincial level, whether it is legislative changes or funding changes, and there is an emphasis on cross ministerial work. Andrew Daher, Executive Director of Employment & Social Services, appears before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee via video conference regarding the administrative report "A New Provincial-Municipal Vision for Social Assistance Transformation – City Wide" and indicates that it is about providing help for those experiencing homelessness who are living precariously and looking at pre-employment strategies. Mr. Daher refers to the partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association and reports that there are now two mental health navigators on site at the H4 location that offer addiction and counsel supports for our most vulnerable clients and have had over 145 referrals. Mr. Daher indicates that there are now two Ontario Works caseworkers working at the H4 hub and this will be the model going forward to ensure that our caseworkers meet our clients where they are. Mr. Daher adds that they are also working with our ODSP colleagues to see if they can provide support at the H4 site.

Councillor McKenzie inquires whether continuation of these partnerships will require additional funds from the province. Mr. Daher indicates that the work that has been done is ongoing with respect to modernization and reducing the administrative burden. Mr. Daher adds that the intent is that some of this work will save time, resources and dollars and we need to look at those efficiencies and redeploying those dollars to other initiatives. Mr. Daher indicates that it is about reshifting and realigning more dollars to where the priorities are, and adds that he does not anticipate that additional funds will be provided by the province.

Councillor McKenzie expresses concern when he sees a proposal for a significant shift in the way that services will be delivered and there are no dollars to underpin that transition. Mr. Daher

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indicates that the discussions that have come about are a result of the work that the province is doing clawing back and taking on more financial functions. Mr. Daher adds that their intent is that this will save dollars and the thought is that administration needs to repurpose these type of initiatives.

Moved by: Councillor Gignac

Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 143**

THAT the report from the Executive Director, Employment & Social Services providing an update on a new provincial-municipal Vision for Social Assistance Transformation **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried.

Report Number: S 31/2021

Clerk's File: SS2021

9. QUESTION PERIOD

None registered.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting of the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee is adjourned at 11:08 o'clock a.m. The next meeting of the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee will take place on Wednesday, May 5, 2021.

Carried.

Councillor Sleiman (Chairperson)

Supervisor of Council Services